

Remarks

Claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-20 and 22-26 were pending.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 23 and 26 are amended

Claims 2, 8-10, 12, 14-16, 18-20 and 22 are original.

Claims 3-5, are as previously presented.

Claims 11, 24 and 25 are cancelled.

The application now contains claims 1-10, 12, 14-16, 18-20, 22, 23 and 26.

Claim 1 is amended near the end of the claim to delete the general term "cation" from the description of M^+ and insert in its stead the limitation "phosphonium salt or $N(R_8)_4^+$, wherein the substituents R_8 are each independently of the others hydrogen, C_1 - C_{16} alkyl or C_1 - C_4 alcohol" and to insert at the end of the claim the phrase "and when n is a number 2 or 3, each M^+ can be the same or different". Support is found on page 5, lines 13-15, of the specification.

Claims 6 and 7 are amended for clarity by deleting the phrase "any one of claims" and inserting in its stead the word "claim".

Claim 23 is amended to correct the spelling of "fiber", to delete the phrase "mentioned material" and insert in its stead "hydrophobic fiber material". Support is inherent in the claim.

Claim 26 is amended to correct the spelling of "fibers" and provide proper antecedence by inserting the word "fiber" between the words "hydrophobic" and "material"

No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-6, 11 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lamm et.al., DE 2004488.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 11, 24 and 25 are cancelled.

In instantly amended claim 1, M^+ is limited to a phosphonium salt or ammonium salt, i.e., $N(R_8)_4^+$. As the cited art refers only to compounds wherein M^+ is hydrogen or sodium cation, no anticipation of the instant claims by now DE 2004488 exists.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-6, 11 and 23-25 under 35 USC 102(b) are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that the rejections be withdrawn and claims 1-6, and 23 be found allowable.

Claims 7-10, 12, 14-16, 18-20, 22 and 26 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. In light of the amendments to claim 1 and the discussion above, Applicants respectfully submit that the base claim for each of 7-10, 12, 14-16, 18-20, 22 and 26 is allowable.

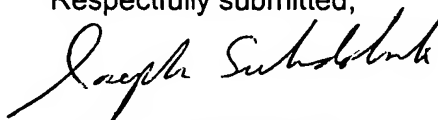
Applicants therefore respectfully suggest and that the objections are overcome and kindly ask they be withdrawn and claims 7-10, 12, 14-16, 18-20, 22 and 26 be found allowable.

As are no other rejections or objections, Applicants respectfully request that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and kindly ask that claims 1-10, 12, 14-16, 18-20, 22, 23 and 26 be found allowable.

In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,



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